

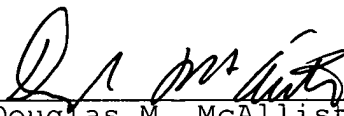
clamping element.

Applicants hereby elect the invention drawn to surgical methods, as set forth in method claims 5-29. Applicants further elect Species B, drawn to a method for locking a bone screw to a clamping element. Applicants submit that claims 7-29 read on the elected Species B.

This election is made without prejudice and with the understanding that with the allowance of a generic claim, Applicants will be entitled to consideration of additional species which are dependent on or otherwise contain all the limitations of the generic claim.

Should there be any remaining issues that need to be addressed in order to place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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